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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 04735

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ACTION: POL
INFO: RSO P/M AMB DCM MEPI ECON

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB: MSISON
DRAFTED: ECON: BDEMONTLUZIN
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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2434
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 5579

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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: BOEING WINS BIG AT DUBAI AIR SHOW

REF: Abu Dhabi 04715

1. (U) On November 20, during the 9th Annual Dubai Air Show, the Dubai-based Emirates Airline awarded Boeing a \$9.7 billion order to buy 42 B-777s with an option to purchase 20 more. With this newest order, the Emirates fleet will increase to more than 200 making it the largest carrier in the Arab world. Boeing will begin delivering the 777's in 2007. This newest order includes 24 Boeing 777-300ER's, 10 B-777-200LR Worldliners and eight 777 freighters. This is the largest order ever for Boeing 777s and the deal will make Emirates the largest Boeing operator in the world. The 777's will be powered by 84 GE90-115B jet engines, which are valued at \$2 billion.

2. (U) The Dubai Air Show, the 3rd largest aviation exhibition in the world, opened November 20 and will run until November 25. The event has grown from 200 exhibitors in 1989 to over 575 in 2005 with participation from 37 countries and live demonstrations of over 90 aircraft. The growth of the Air Show mirrors the expansion of the aviation sector in the Gulf, the fastest-growing aviation sector in the world. This year's show boasts a strong U.S. presence, with over 90 American companies participating. The U.S. military showcased its aircraft and also participated in the flying demonstrations.

3. (U) The FAA also used the Air Show to highlight the opening of its Middle East and North Africa regional office in Abu Dhabi. The FAA office moved to Abu Dhabi from Rome due to the tremendous aviation growth in the Middle East. The FAA's role in the UAE is to improve its understanding of aviation operations within the region and facilitate efforts to meet safety and growth objectives. The FAA in Abu Dhabi will work closely with aviation authorities, airport management officials, training institutions, air carriers and U.S. industry representatives. The office will also act as an advocate for regional safety standards to ensure a safe operational environment.

